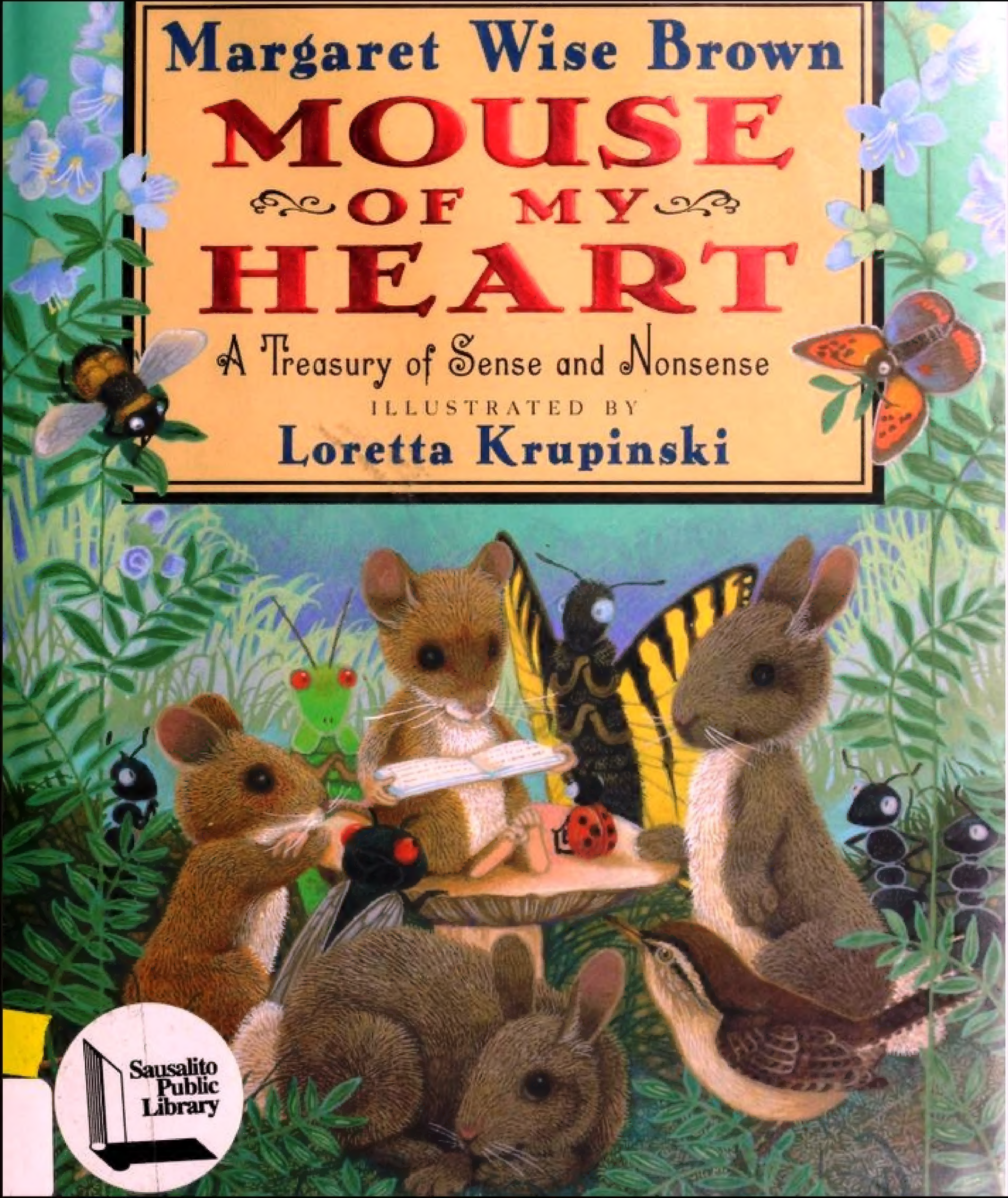


Margaret Wise Brown  
**MOUSE**  
OF MY  
**HEART**

A Treasury of Sense and Nonsense

ILLUSTRATED BY

**Loretta Krupinski**









































































Until with one last bite it came to daylight  
On the other side of the mountain.  
And soon the train came through the mountain  
And onto the great green plain.  
And on went the train,  
On and on down its long steel track,  
And the smoke trailed back.

"That was easy," said the steam shovel.  
"I'll dig a hole to China someday."



## Big and Little





## You Be Little and I'll Be Big



'M SO LITTLE," said the bunny to the mouse, "and you're so big. Don't hurt me."

Now this morning the bunny felt very little inside, and so he was little. And it so happened that the mouse felt enormous inside that morning. Brave as a lion, fierce as a tiger, and big as an elephant. The sunflower seeds he had eaten the day before had agreed with him. He felt fine.

"All right," said the mouse, "I'll take care of you. Take a nap. You are so little you must sleep if your ears are to grow."

So the bunny curled himself up very little for a bunny and the mouse gave him just one sunflower seed—because he was so little.

When he woke up he felt much bigger.





So he went hopping through the woods to see his grandmother.

Now, the bunny's grandmother felt very little that day. Old rabbit ladies sometimes do feel very little. So the bunny took care of her all day long.

He rocked her in her rocking chair and he held her paw when the wind blew. Because the bunny's grandmother felt so little she was afraid of the sound of the wind in the trees.

And the bunny sang her a song.

*"Big old Gran, big old Gran  
How little you are  
Like a grain of sand."*

He sang his song to his little old Gran. And then he fed her a carrot. The bunny ate some, too.

"Now," said the bunny, "I feel little." After the carrot his grandmother felt very big again. So she picked the little bunny up in her lap and she rocked him to sleep, and she sang him a song.





*"Little old Bun  
Little old Bun,  
How big are you?"*

*"Big as a goose,"  
sang the little old Bun.*

*"Little old Gran,  
How big are you?"*

*"Big as the land,"  
sang his little old Gran.*

*"How big are you?"*

But the bunny was so little he had fallen asleep, so his grandmother just hummed to him and rocked away.

## Baby Hippopotamus

A baby hippopotamus looks  
like a baby pig  
Until a baby hippopotamus  
grows up big  
And then like a whale with a little short tail  
He stays under the water and  
swims like a whale.  
Then comes out of the water  
like a fat old pig  
And wallows around when he grows big  
Big as a hippopotamus.





## Song of Little Things

Oh sing a song of little things  
Of bugs and flies and  
flickering wings



Of flakes of snow and drops of rain



And yellow flowers  
in the lane



Of little pairs of squeaky shoes



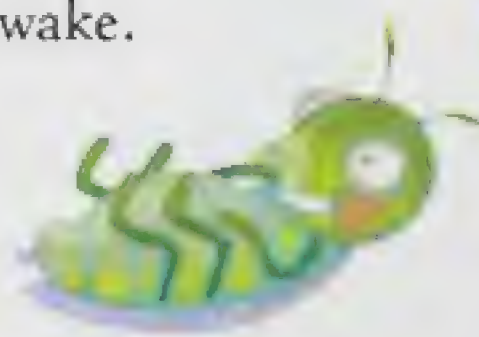
And mice that laugh  
until they snooze



Of stars and pins and crumbs of cake



And bugs that laugh themselves awake.



## A Bug's Poem

Grass is green  
And tall and high  
And I am a bug  
Looking up grass blades  
Toward the sky  
A striped sky  
Striped with grass  
Where green-striped  
Grass-striped  
White clouds  
Pass  
Beyond the high long  
Straight green grass.





## Said a Bug

Said a bug to a bug,  
"Look away up high  
At those great green grass blades  
Piercing the sky."

Said a bug to a bug,  
"How high is the sky  
Above the grass blades,  
Grass blades so high?"

Said a Bug

Said the other bug,  
"It depends on the eye  
Of the bug that is looking  
Up in the sky.  
Some bugs crawl  
And some bugs fly."

Said a bug to a bug,  
"Buzz up and fly  
Above those grass blades  
Into the sky.  
But don't bump  
Into a butterfly!"







# The Three Snowmen

Three snowmen tried to answer a question.

They couldn't agree.

The question was

WHAT MAKES A SNOWMAN DISAPPEAR?

"The wind," said the first snowman.

"The sun," said the second snowman.

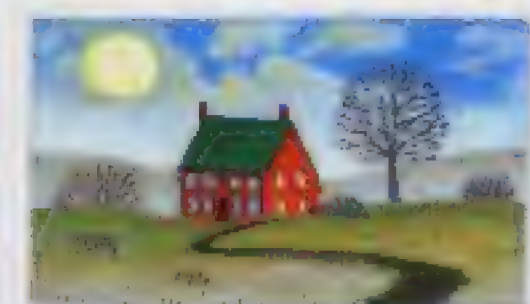
"The rain," said the third snowman.

Then one day it was spring.

The wind blew,

The sun shone,

And the rain fell.



All in one day.

And all that was left of the snowmen was



Three puddles

Three pipes

Three sticks

Three silk hats

Six lump-of-coal eyes

And nine cocklebur buttons.

They had all been right.



## All the Little Fathers

All the little fathers were chirping  
to their children.

Bird fathers!



All the little fathers were giving their  
children bones to chew.

Dog fathers!

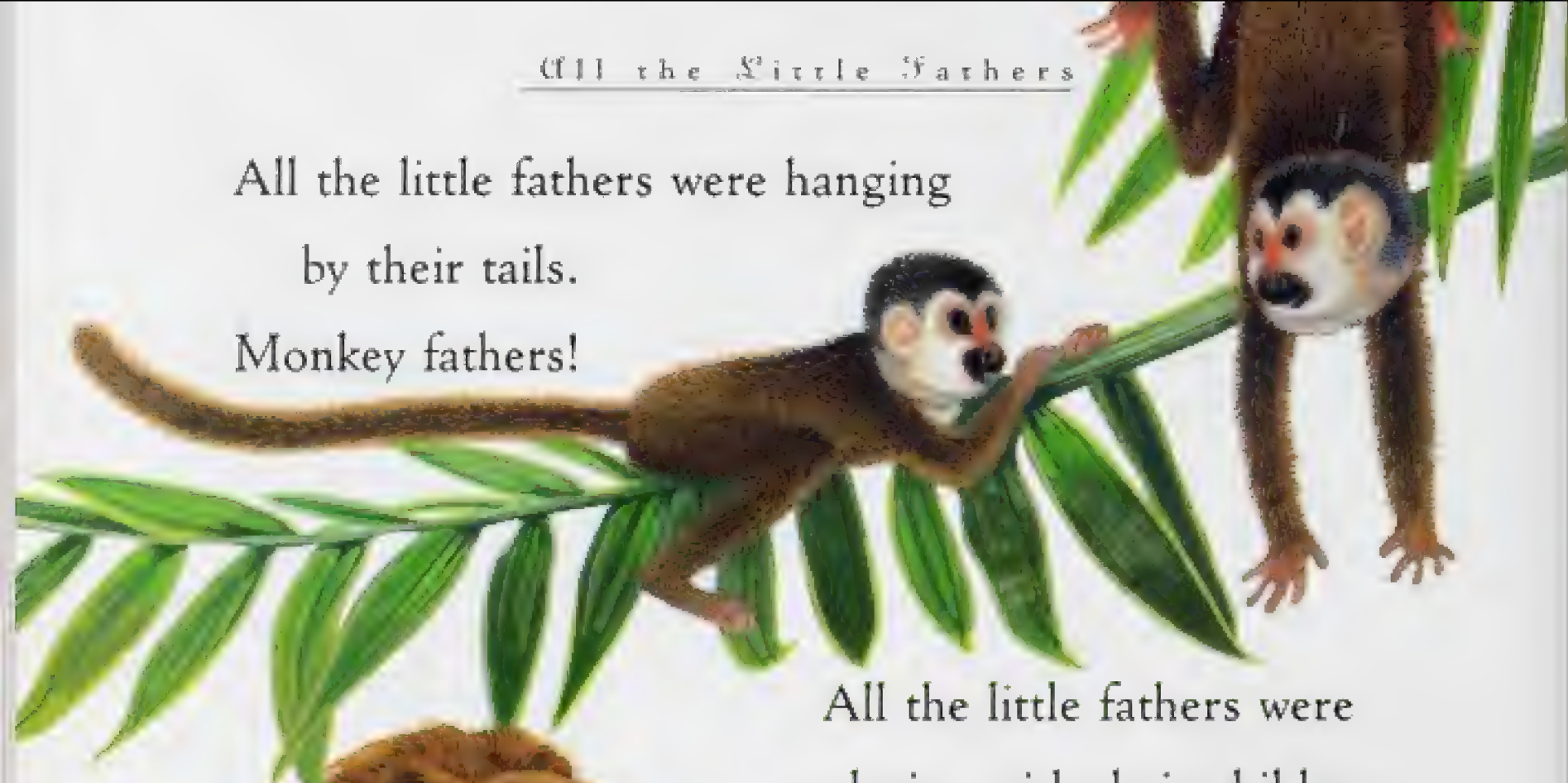


All the little fathers were  
purring to their children.  
Cat fathers!





All the little fathers were hanging  
by their tails.  
Monkey fathers!



All the little fathers were  
playing with their children.  
Lion fathers!



All the little fathers were trying  
to catch their children.  
Panda fathers!



All the little fathers were  
hiding nuts with their children.  
Squirrel fathers!



All the little fathers were showing  
their children how to run.

Rabbit fathers!



All the little fathers were putting  
their children to bed.

Fathers!





# What a Little Man



ONCE THERE WAS A LITTLE DOG who had never seen a child. One day he saw a little boy. He was so surprised he barked.

"What a little tiny man," said the dog.

"I'm not a little tiny man," said the child. "I am a little boy."

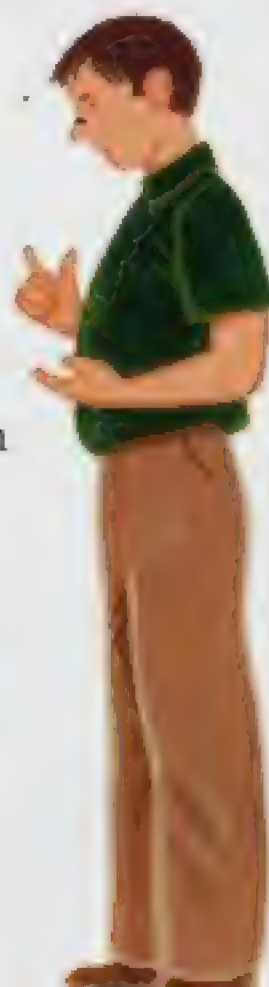
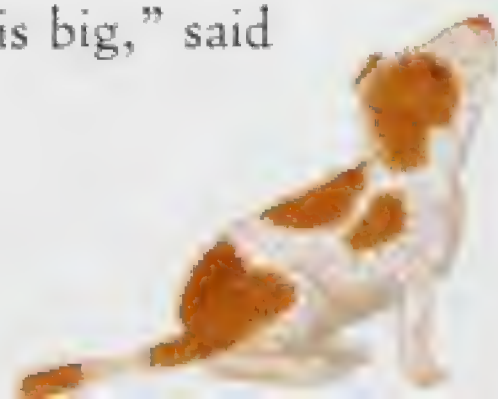
"What is the difference?" asked the dog.

"Ask any man," said the little boy.

So the dog walked along until he met a man.

"What is the difference between a man and a little boy?" asked the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the man.



So the little dog wagged his tail and ran along.

Until suddenly he met a little girl. He was so surprised that he barked.

"What a tiny little woman," said the dog.

"I'm not a tiny little woman," said the little girl. "I am a little girl."

"What is the difference?" asked the dog.

"Ask any woman," said the little girl.

So the little dog walked along until he met a great big woman.

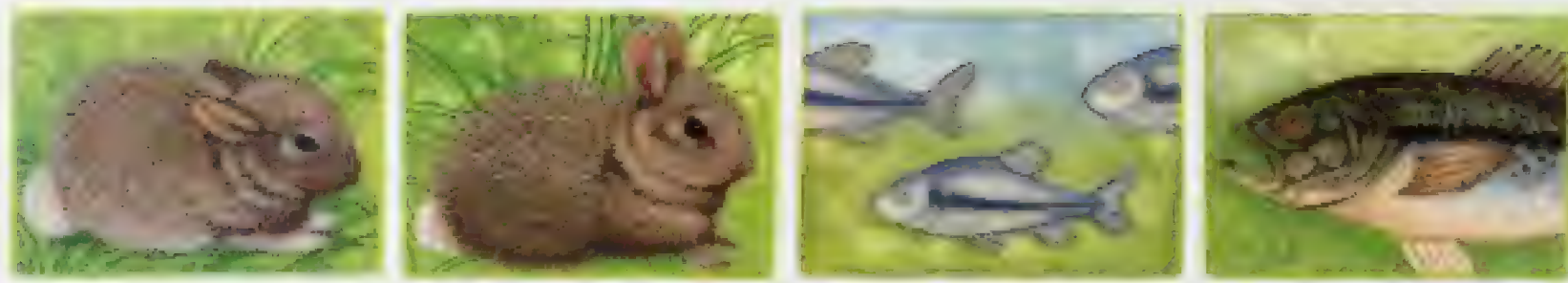
"What is the difference between a woman and a little girl?" asked the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the woman, and she walked along.

So the little dog shook his head and ran off across the fields till he came to a stream, and there by the stream he saw a tiny little rabbit eating parsley.







"What a tiny little rabbit," said the dog.

"I am not a tiny little rabbit, I am a little bunny."

"What is the difference?" said the dog.

"Ask any rabbit," said the little bunny.

So the dog sniffed up to a hollow tree and there was a big fat rabbit sitting inside of the tree.

"What is the difference between a rabbit and a little bunny?" said the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the rabbit, and he shot out of the tree and disappeared over the hill.

So the little dog took a drink of water out of the cold wet stream. When he stuck his nose in the stream he saw little fish that were no longer than an eyelash.

"What little, little tiny fish," said the dog.

"We are not little, little tiny fish," said the fish. "We are minnows."

"What is the difference?" said the dog.

"Ask any fish," said the minnows.

So the little dog reached in the river with a paw and pushed a big fish.

"What is the difference between a minnow and a fish?" asked the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the fish, and he swam away.

Just then an egg fell out of a nest and broke. Out popped a little duckling with yellow feathers.

"What a funny little duck," said the dog.

"I am not a funny little duck," said the funny little duck. "I am a duckling."

"What is the difference?" said the dog.

"Ask any duck," said the duckling.

So the dog walked along until he met a duck.

"What is the difference between a duck and a duckling?" said the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the duck, and he waddled away and so did the dog.





He waddled away until he came to a big green field with a fence around it. Inside the fence a very small horse was kicking up his very small heels.

"What a very small horse," said the dog.

"I am not a very small horse," said the very small horse. "I am a young colt."

"What is the difference?" said the dog.

"Ask any horse," said the colt.

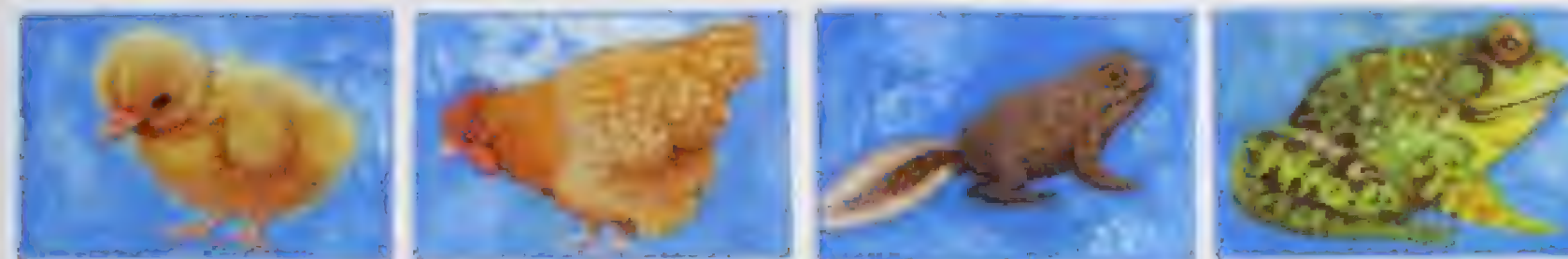
So the dog jumped the fence and ran across the field to a big brown horse.

"What is the difference between a horse and a colt?" asked the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the horse.



"What's the difference between a cub and a bear?" wondered the dog. "Between a piglet and a pig? A chick and a chicken? A tadpole and a frog?"



Finally he met a dog.

And the dog said to him, "What a little dog you are."

"No, I am not, I am a little puppy," said the little dog.

"What is the difference between a puppy and a dog?" asked the dog.

"One is little and one is big," said the puppy, for now he understood.





And that was the end of his walk.

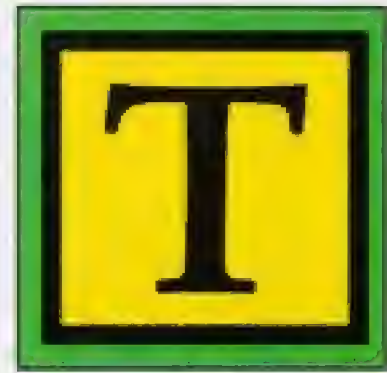


# Bravery





# The Flying Mouse



HERE WAS ONCE A MOUSE who longed for wings, great big wonderful flying things. He wanted to fly away through the sky on great big wings that would carry him high. He wanted to be a flying mouse and fly over everybody's house. He was tired of being a little ground mouse.

And then one time in the middle of the night there came a bright light into his room. And a small voice said, "Little mouse, little mouse, get up and go to the place where the brook flows into the river. And from the second branch of the smallest tree pick two green leaves."



So the little mouse combed his whiskers and ran down to the place where the brook flows into the river. There was a little beech tree that grew there. And from the second branch the little mouse picked two green leaves.

"Now," said the mouse, "I have two green leaves. But what can a little mouse do with these?"

Then came a bright light again, all over the river. And a small voice said:

"Little mouse, little mouse. Take the leaves you have there. Put them under your arms and fly through the air!"

And, lo and behold, the little mouse took the two green leaves and flew through the air.





And as he flew, the leaves became wings, great big wonderful flying things. And the little mouse began to fly. He flew over the houses of the other mice.

He flew along with his wings up there. And he flew, and he flew, and he flew through the air. He flew over the treetops and everywhere.

Then he came down out of the air to play with the other mice. But when they saw him, they ran away. They were all afraid and would not play with the flying mouse. Then the little mouse went to tease the cat. And the cat said, "Goodness! What is that?" And electricity flew out of his hair. "I can't chase a mouse up in the air."

The cat switched his tail like a lion in its lair. Whoever saw a mouse flying through the air! He would not play with a flying mouse.

And there in the air, flying everywhere, were terrible bats. They looked like flying rats. Bats!







The bats were glad to see the mouse, and they flew with him into a darkened house.

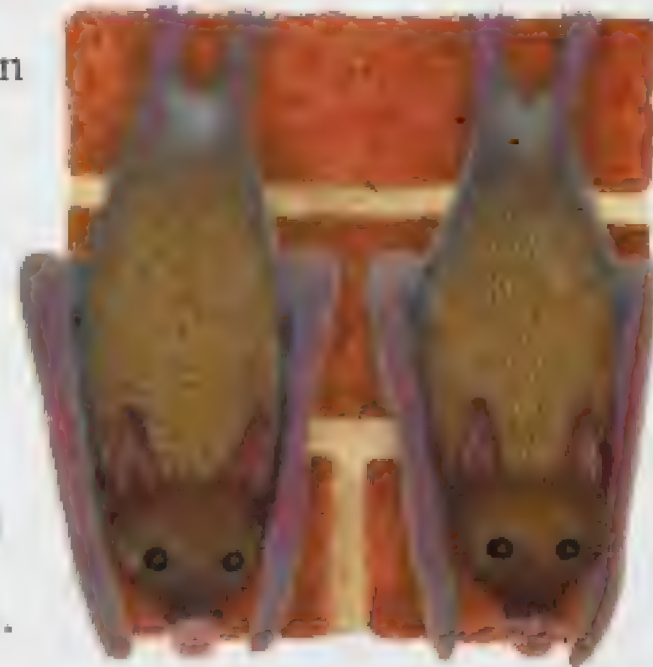
But the mouse was not very pleased at that. A mouse will never be pleased with a bat. The mouse was not happy there in the dark with the snarling bats, and the hiss and the squeak and the other sounds that bats speak.

When morning came and he looked around, the bats were sleeping upside down. So the little mouse flew down to the ground. He flew to the ground and he ran to the brook. And in the water he took one look!

"Oh, dear me! Now what is that?"

For the flying mouse looked like a little fat bat. And the little mouse did not like that.

Then the little mouse began to shiver, and he ran and he ran and he ran to the river. He sat down



under the little beech tree. And he wondered and wondered what on earth he could be.

There was no place on earth for a flying mouse. He didn't want to live in the bat house. And no one would play with a flying mouse.

"Oh, dear me," said the little mouse. "How I wish I were like other mice!"

And, lo and behold, the light came back all over the river. The mouse's wings began to quiver. His wings flew back to be leaves on the tree. And the little mouse danced and cried with glee, "I am ME!"

And the small voice said, "Little mouse, little mouse. Go back to your house and be a mouse!"





## One Eye Open



ONCE THERE WAS A LITTLE CAT who wanted to see the world. So he stuck out his whiskers and went pussyfooting over to tell his mother good-bye. His mother was asleep. But she had one eye open.

“Why do you want to see the world, you funny little kitten?” she said. “Why not just curl up by me and eat and sleep?”

“Because I want to see the world,” said the kitten, “and off I go.”

“Good-bye,” said his mother. “Look where you’re going. Look before you leap, and always keep one eye open.”





# The Tiger's Child

*Sssssssssssssspit*

I'm Wild Cat Wild

The Tiger's child

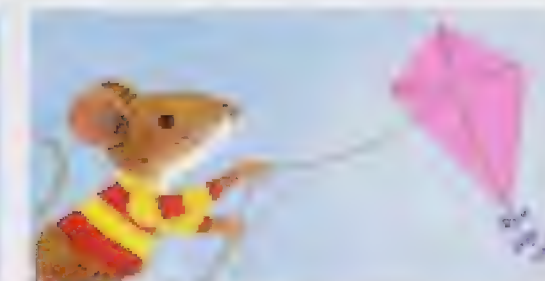
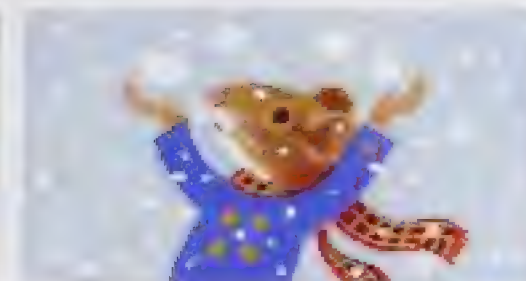
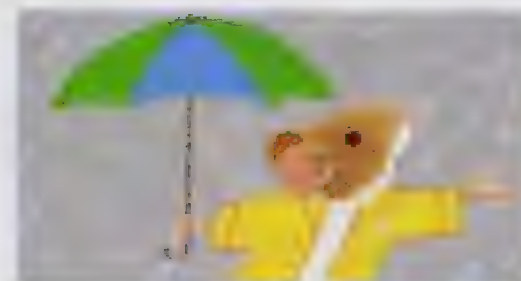
I bristle my hairs

And scratch down chairs

And arch my back at terrible bears

I'm Wild Cat Wild

The Tiger's child



# Brave Little Airplane

There was once

A brave little airplane

Who flew through the wind

And the snow and the rain

And he heard their songs

Again and again,

The songs that are sung

To an airplane

I am the rain

The rain

The rain

I get you wet

Little Airplane





I am the snow  
The snow  
The snow  
I make you cold  
When the cold  
winds blow



I am the wind  
The wind  
The wind  
I blow the snow  
I blow the rain  
AND I BLOW YOU  
Little Airplane



Snow rain wind snow  
Will always be  
Wherever you go  
Rain snow wind rain  
Will always be,  
Little Airplane.

## Love and Friendship





# Mouse of My Heart

Mouse mouse

Why do you start

Timid and shy

As a human heart?

Mouse mouse

Where do you glide

Like a soft gray shadow

Trying to hide?

Mouse mouse

Where is your den

Far from the eyes

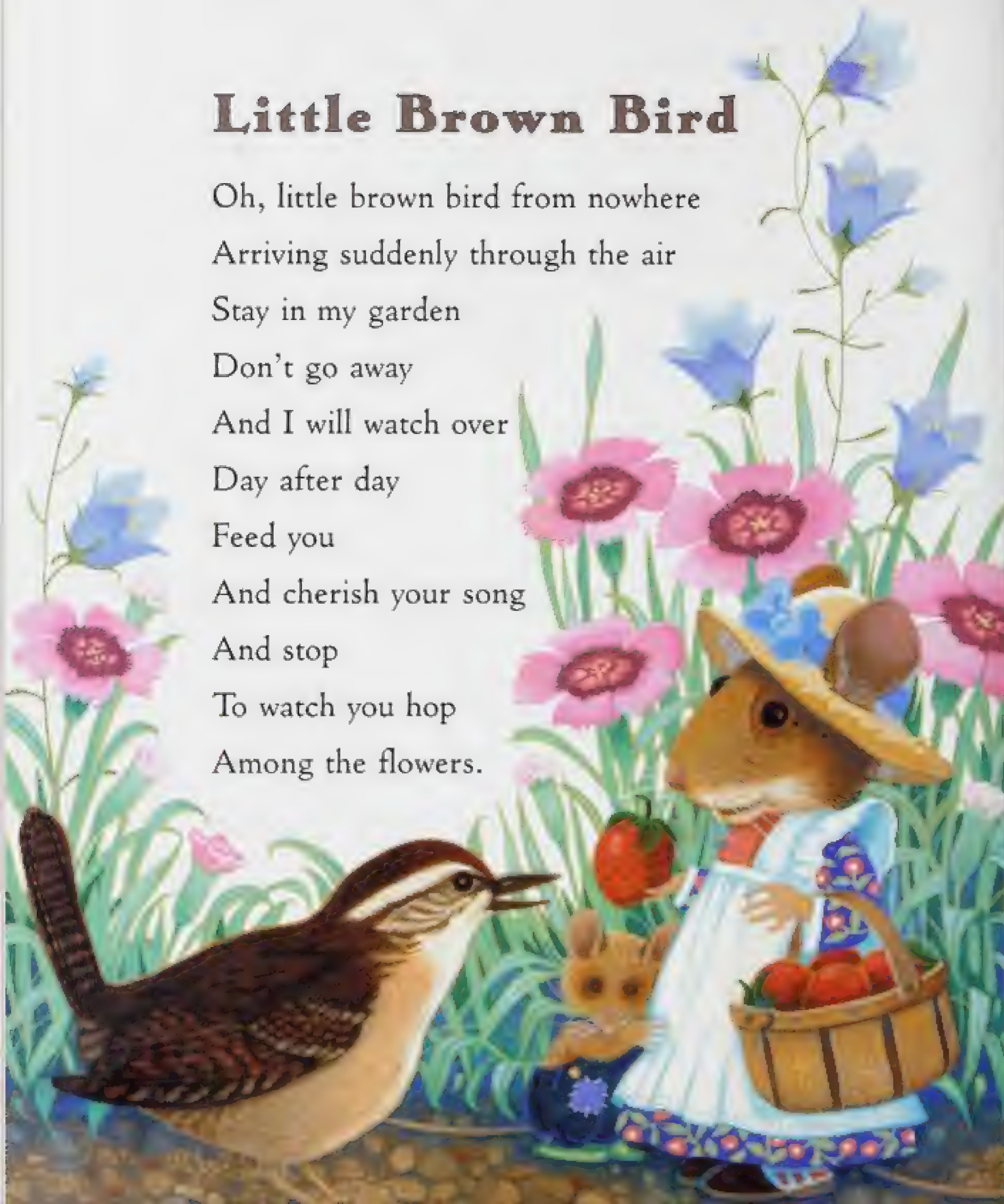
Of cats and men?





## Little Brown Bird

Oh, little brown bird from nowhere  
Arriving suddenly through the air  
Stay in my garden  
Don't go away  
And I will watch over  
Day after day  
Feed you  
And cherish your song  
And stop  
To watch you hop  
Among the flowers.



## The Lonely Little Colt



WHEN DAWN CAME in the barnyard, the little colt was still asleep. His mother nudged him with her nose until she had him on his feet.

The colt shook himself and looked out of the window. But he shook himself too hard. He hadn't been in the world long enough to know how hard a colt should shake himself. His legs were not yet very strong. So down he went on his knees. But soon he was on his feet again and giving stiff little jumps on his brand-new legs. His mother watched him with pride and joy.

He ran with his mother out of the barn and into the fields. Once around the field they galloped. Twice around the field they galloped.

Then the farmer came to the field. He whistled to the mother horse. "It is time for you to go back to work,"



he said. "You have galloped around with your baby long enough. Now you must help me cut a field of clover to make some hay."

Then the farmer took the mother horse away from the field. The little colt was left there all by himself.





At first the little colt wasn't very happy. He had never been left by himself before. And he did not like it. He galloped around close to the fence and neighed for his mother. Then he just galloped around the field faster and faster.

After a while he began to enjoy himself. He felt the warm sunshine. He smelled the green grass. He went to the fence and watched some geese march by. He wished the geese were big enough to play with. But he couldn't gallop around the field with a goose.



Then the brown spotted dog came dashing across the field.

The dog can run with me, thought the little colt. With a kick of his heels, he galloped after the dog.

But the dog would not wait to play that day. He ran right across the field and under the fence where the little colt couldn't go. The brown spotted

dog was going to the hill to take care of the sheep. He didn't have time to play with a little colt.

Then the little colt saw a little pig running down the road. He ran over to the fence and neighed to the little pig. But the little pig only squealed and ran



away. He was looking for something a little pig could eat. He did not want to play with a little colt.

Then the colt saw a sleepy little calf looking over the fence. The little colt ran over to the calf and stopped. Here was an animal his own size. They rubbed noses.



The little colt kicked up his heels.





Then the little calf kicked up his heels.

The the little colt neighed.

Then the little calf mooed.

The little colt stiffened his legs and jumped.

Then the little calf stiffened his legs and jumped.



After that they seemed to feel that they knew each other. So they ran up and down beside the fence.

The calf ran up and down on his side of the fence.

And the colt ran up and down on his side of the fence.

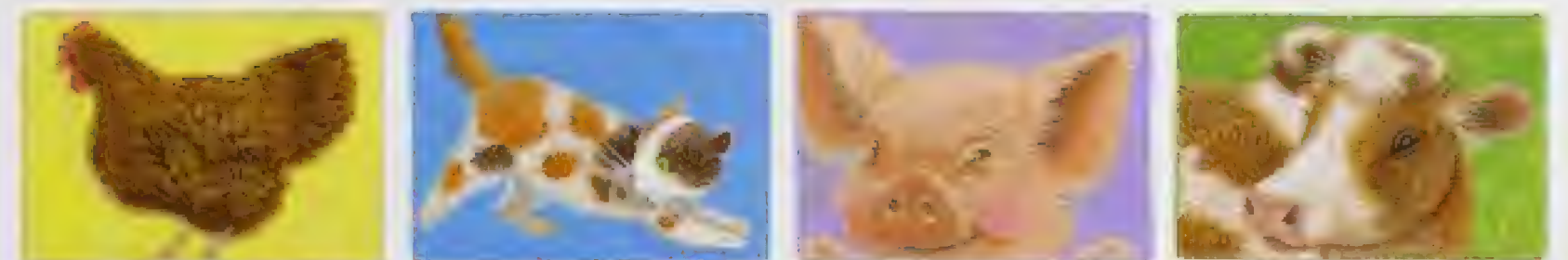
Then a little boy came and opened the gate, and the colt rushed into the field with the calf. Soon they found another gate open. So they both ran into the farmyard and jumped over everything they saw.

They jumped over a chicken.

They jumped over a cat.

They jumped over a pig,

And they jumped over the bull.



They jumped and they jumped and they jumped.

And then when evening came, the mother horse whinnied and the colt ran home.

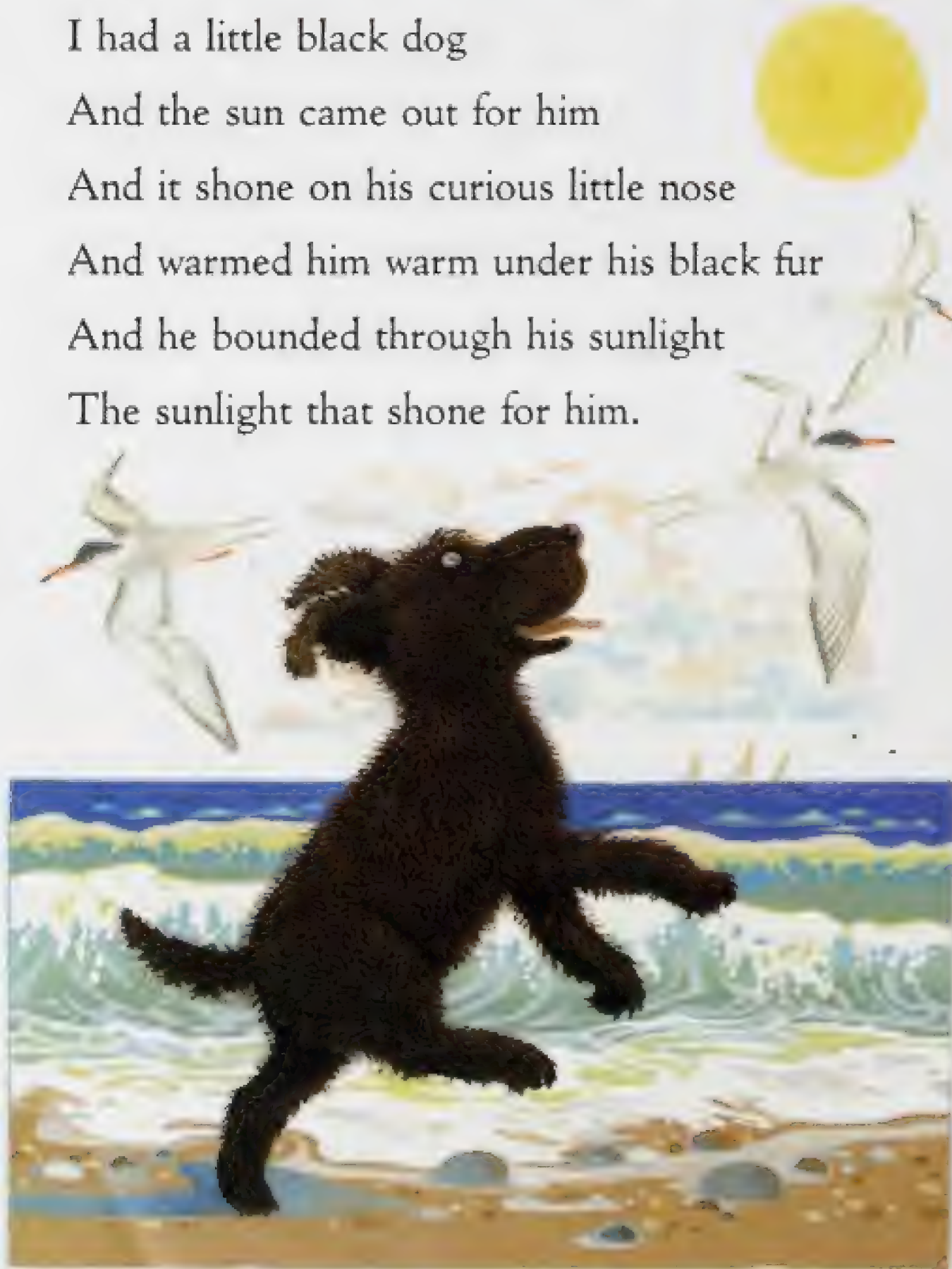
And the mother cow mooed and the calf ran home.

All this happened the day the colt and the calf came to know each other. After that, the colt was not lonely anymore.



# A Little Black Dog

I had a little black dog  
And the sun came out for him  
And it shone on his curious little nose  
And warmed him warm under his black fur  
And he bounded through his sunlight  
The sunlight that shone for him.



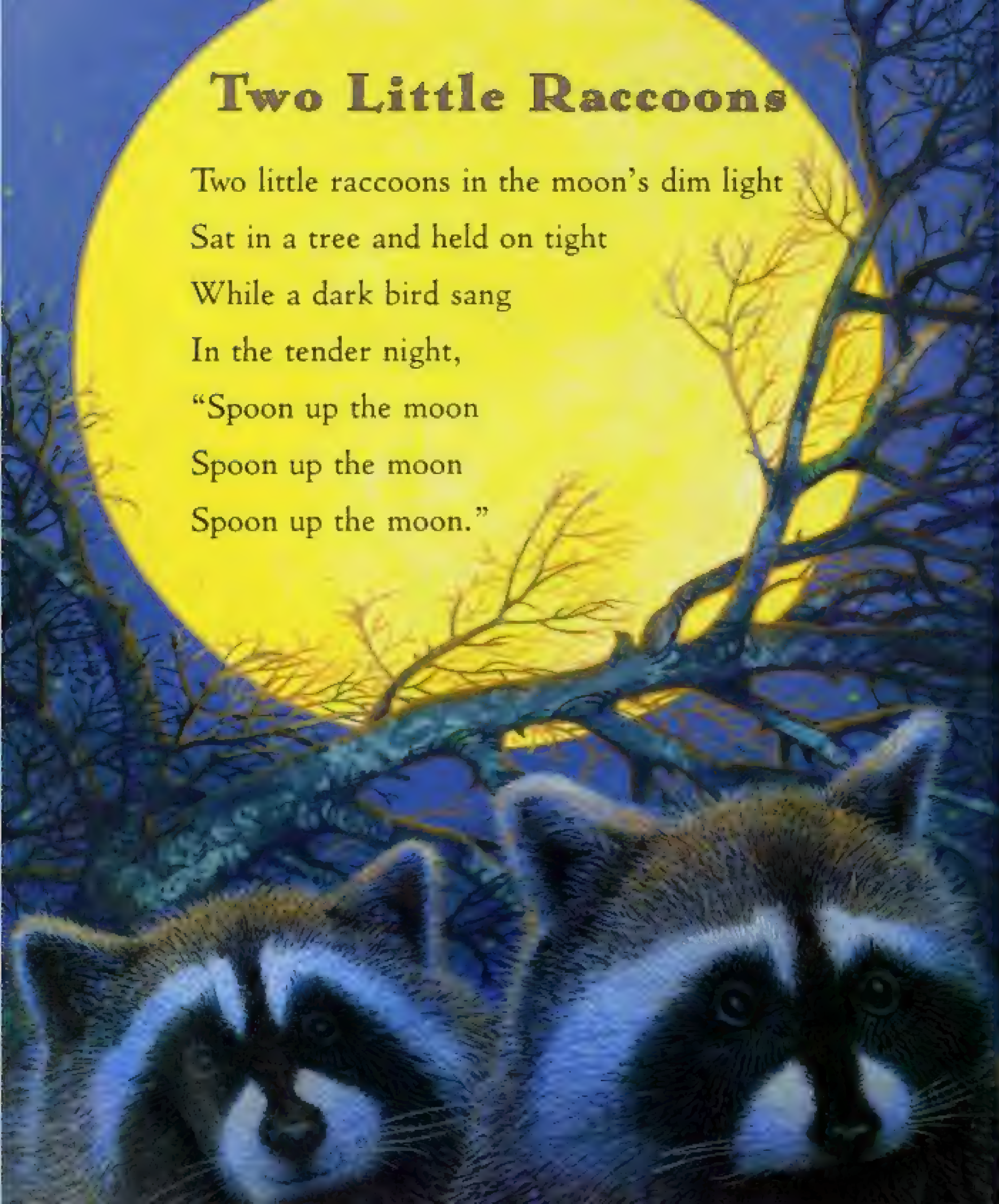
# Bedtime





## Two Little Raccoons

Two little raccoons in the moon's dim light  
Sat in a tree and held on tight  
While a dark bird sang  
In the tender night,  
"Spoon up the moon  
Spoon up the moon  
Spoon up the moon."



## Drowsy Little Bumblebee

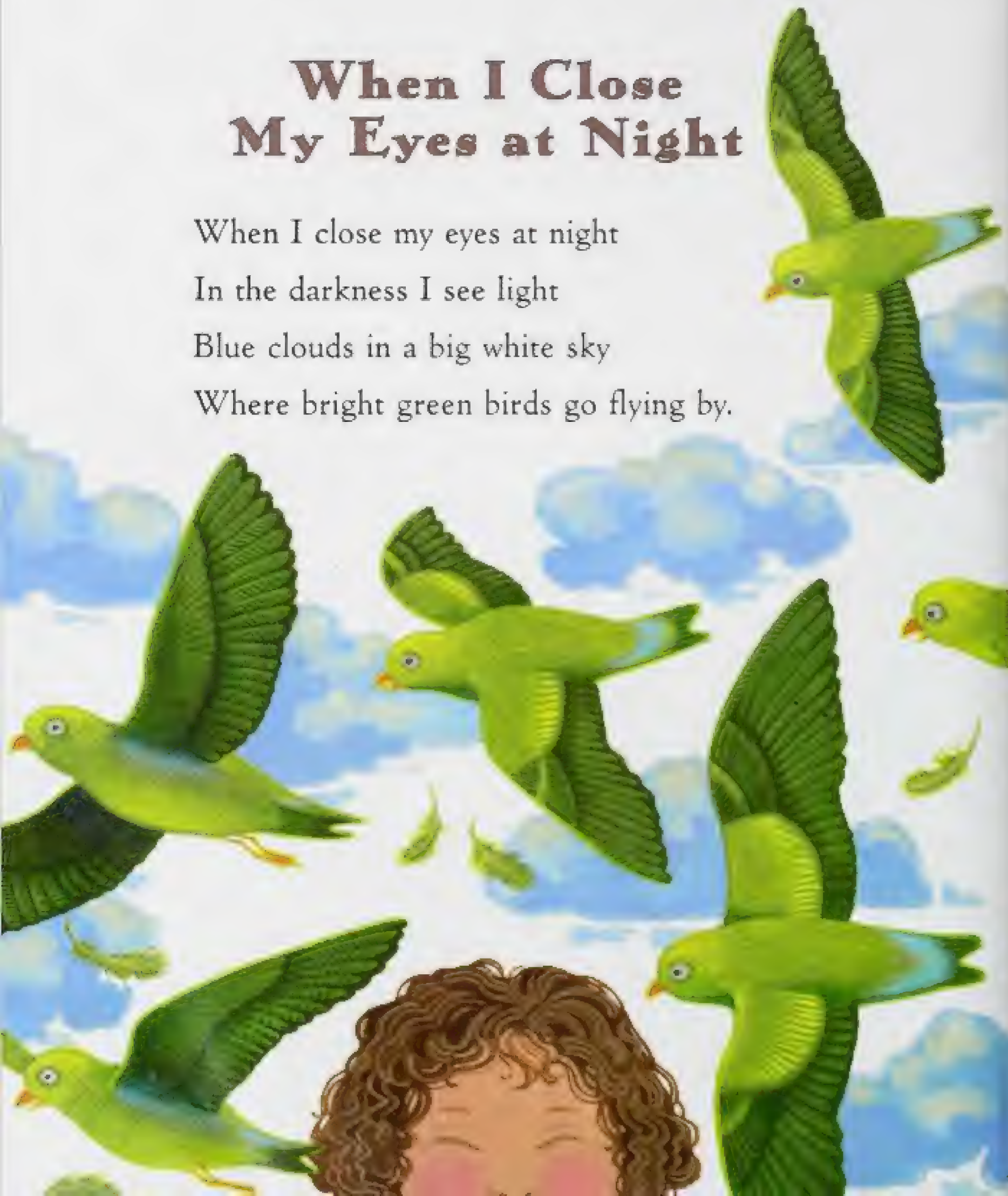
Drowsy little bumblebee  
Come and rest your wings on me  
No more humming in the sun  
Stars come out and day is done.



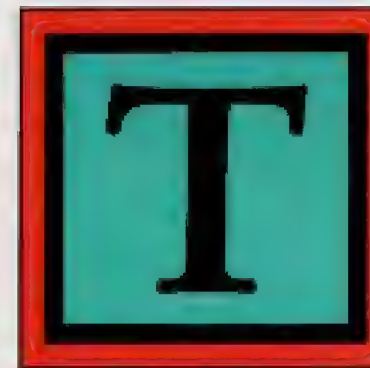


## When I Close My Eyes at Night

When I close my eyes at night  
In the darkness I see light  
Blue clouds in a big white sky  
Where bright green birds go flying by.



## The Sleepy Bears



HERE WAS A BIG SLEEPY BEAR and a  
little sleepy bear.

The big sleepy bear yawned a great big yawn, and the  
little sleepy bear yawned a little sleepy yawn.

Then the big sleepy bear gave a great big stretch, and  
the little sleepy bear gave a little sleepy stretch.







Then the big sleepy bear got into bed, and the little sleepy man got into bed.

And the big sleepy bear put his head on the pillow, and the little sleepy bear put his head on the pillow.

And the big sleepy bear sang a big sleepy song, and the little sleepy bear sang a little sleepy song.

Then the big sleepy bear told the little sleepy bear a story about the Man in the Moon, who was once a little boy, not much bigger than the little sleepy bear. And about how the little boy Man in the Moon got up every night and ran around all night until by day-time he was so hungry he ate a big fat dinner and stretched and yawned and got into bed and put his head on his pillow, and slowly,



slowly, slowly, and quietly, quietly, quietly, and gently, gently, gently he went day after day after day to sleep and dreamed he was the Man in the Moon.

And the little sleepy bear listened and he never said a word. But he thought about the moonlight, and the starlight and the sunlight at noon, and how he'd be sleeping pretty soon.

Then the big sleepy bear closed his eyes, and the little sleepy bear closed his eyes.

And the little sleepy bear thought of the moon again, and again, and again. And he never said a word because he was sound asleep.





# Under the Sun and the Moon

Go to sleep my bunny  
Oh go to sleep my bun  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my bunny  
Oh go to sleep my bun  
You'll be a big rabbit soon.



Go to sleep my kitty  
Oh go to sleep my cat  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my kitty  
Oh go to sleep my cat  
You'll be a tiger cat soon.



Go to sleep my owlet  
Oh go to sleep my owl  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my owlet  
Oh go to sleep my owl  
And you'll be a hoot owl soon.





Go to sleep my puppy  
Oh go to sleep my dog  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my puppy  
Oh go to sleep my dog  
And you'll be a big dog  
soon.



Go to sleep my teddy  
Oh go to sleep my bear  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my teddy  
Oh go to sleep my bear  
And you'll be a big bear soon.



Go to sleep my baby  
Oh go to sleep my girl  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my baby  
Oh go to sleep my girl  
And you'll be a young lady  
soon.



Go to sleep my baby  
Oh go to sleep my boy  
Under the sun and the moon  
Go to sleep my baby  
Oh go to sleep my boy  
And you'll be a grown man  
soon.





## The Farmer's Lullaby

Silently the first star comes  
The moon rides up the sky  
The little mice scamper about  
in the hay  
And the horses stomp and sigh  
One last moo from a dreaming cow  
And the old pig winks his eye  
And the fireflies blink  
through the darkening night  
In the farmer's lullaby.



## Happiness





# The Barnyard Song

The rooster began it  
Early in the morning.

Before the sun's dawning,  
The rooster began  
The Barnyard Song.

"Cock-a-doodle doo!"

Cock-a-  
doodle  
doo



And the little birds  
Carried it along:

"Sweet wheat! Sweet wheat!"

Sweet  
wheat



Sweet  
wheat



"Cluck, cluck, cluck!"

The chickens chimed in, too.

cluck



cluck



cluck



"Baa," sang the little lambs.

Baa



"Oink," sang the pig,

"I'll sing 'Ugh, ugh, ugh,'  
When I get big."

oink





## Where Is the Spring?

"On a bush," sang the robin

"In the sky," sang the lark.

In a song

In the spring

In the dark.



## Red Cherries

Up in a cherry tree in the sun

The cherries ripened one by one

Big red cherries, there they hung

And I ate them in the sun.

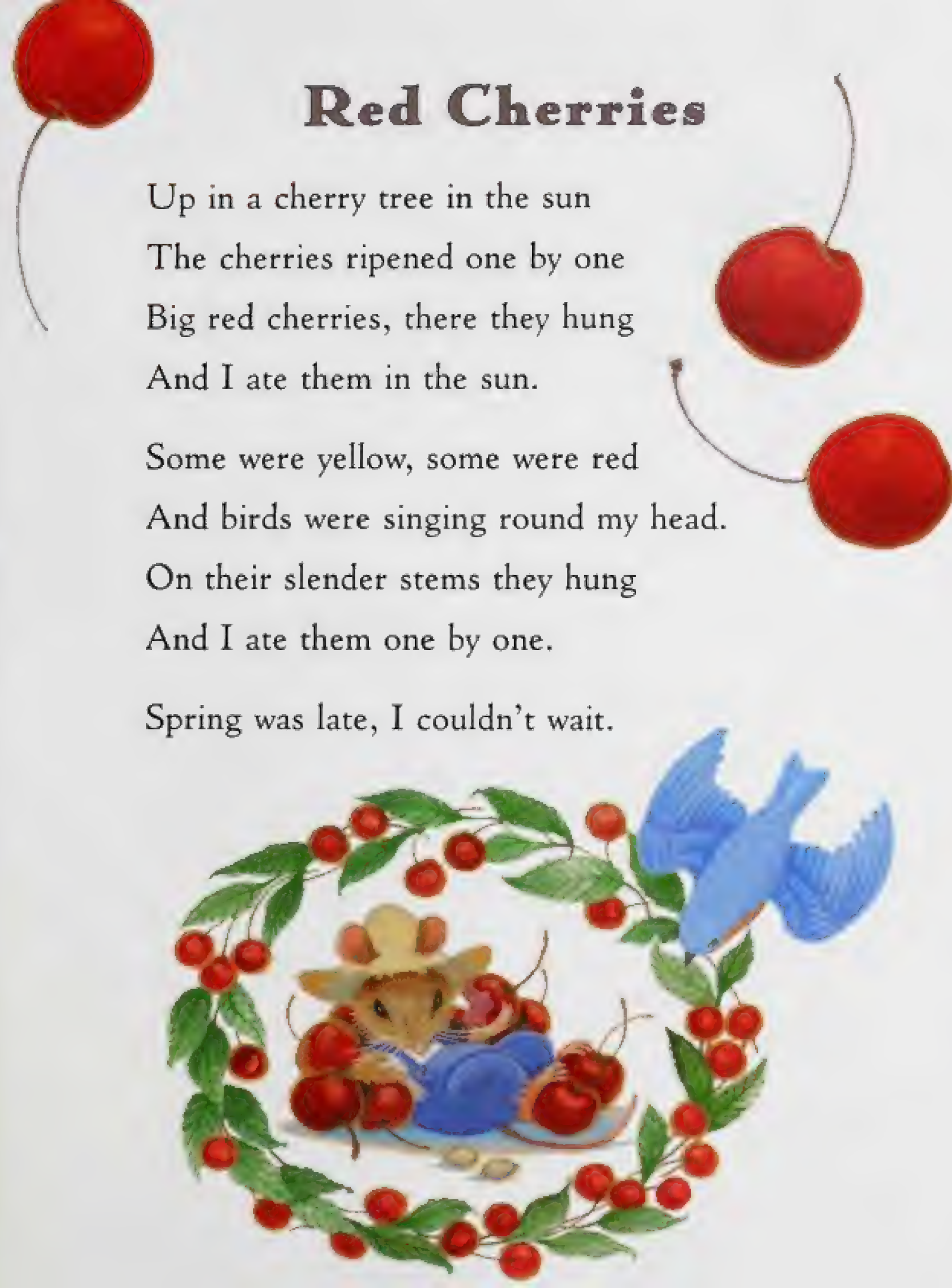
Some were yellow, some were red

And birds were singing round my head.

On their slender stems they hung

And I ate them one by one.

Spring was late, I couldn't wait.





## O Pussywillows

A small gray kitten  
Went walking in spring.  
On a moonlit night  
You could hear him sing.  
To pussywillows  
He would sing and purr  
Because like kittens  
They have soft gray fur.

“O pussywillows,”  
The kitten would sing  
“Gray pussywillows  
First sign of spring

You come in the woods  
All furry and warm  
You bloom in the woods  
Then—pouf—you are gone.”

“O pussywillows,”  
The kitten would purr  
“Gray little flowers  
All covered in fur  
Today you are here  
And now you are near  
All of a sudden  
Must you disappear?”





## Spring Still Spring

View Page n-1

The fern uncurls in the wet spring woods  
And the trillium blooms  
And the first bee booms  
Around and around  
Where a rabbit nips the new garden leaves  
As they spring up in the spring.



## Belonging





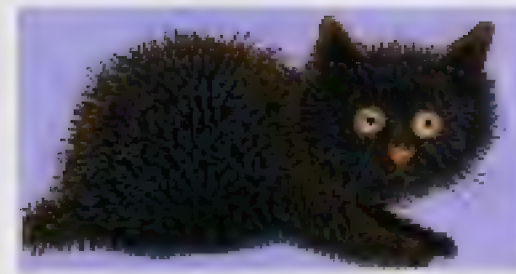
# I Dreamed of a Horse

I dreamed of a horse  
A quiet horse  
And the horse belonged to me

I dreamed of a horse  
A great white horse  
In a land beyond the sea

I dreamed of a horse  
A golden horse  
In the time of chivalry

I dreamed of a horse  
A gentle horse  
And the horse belonged to me.



## Three Baby Kittens



THREE BABY KITTENS were once born  
into this world.

One was black. One was white. One was a calico kitten.

And when they felt the warmth of their own little bodies,  
they all began to purr, for they thought the world was won-  
derful.

They even thought that the mean old farmer who  
owned them was wonderful. And just as soon as they could  
crawl, they crawled all over his house. But the farmer did  
not like kittens.

“One cat on a farm is enough,” the mean old farmer said  
to his son. “We do not have room for three kittens, too.”



"I know what to do," the farmer's son said. He put the three kittens in an old gunnysack. "These three little kittens will find a home if I take them into town."



The gunnysack was wonderful, too. They rolled about in the cozy darkness of the sack and wrestled and hugged each other. Then they curled up in a warm pile of fur and went to sleep.

The farmer's son hit a bump in the road.

The old gunnysack flew up into the air. It came down in a soft bank of snow.

The kittens blinked open their eyes and yawned. One by one they crawled out of the old gunnysack.



They did not see the farmer's son driving away.

They did not know they were all alone.

All they knew was that the white snow was wonderful. They went creeping across it. Their bright little kitten eyes were shining like stars in the night. The snow began to fall softly in the empty garden. The little black kitten batted it with his paw. And the other two kittens went pouncing after the soft snowflakes as they drifted toward the ground.







It was the little black kitten that found the cellar window open.

With long leaps through the snow, the other two kittens followed him in through the open window. First they came into exciting black darkness.

The little black kitten blinked his bright yellow eyes in the darkness. The little white kitten blinked two little green eyes, and the little calico kitten blinked her great big yellow eyes. For kittens can see in the dark.

The three baby kittens crept ahead until they came to some steps. The steps were steep and hard to climb. But, one by one, each little kitten pulled itself up—step by step. At the top of the steps was a long crack of light. Beyond was a kitchen full of good cooking smells.



Three little kitten heads came peeking through the door. And there was the most wonderful thing of all: milk! There was a full saucer of it, warm from the warmth of the room. The little kittens drank it so fast, they spattered it all over their faces.

They were sitting under a stove, licking each other.

They were clean and dry when they heard the big feet coming. They were big feet, the biggest feet the kittens had ever seen. The feet came nearer. Two hands put a pie on the kitchen table. Then the feet went away.

It didn't take the three kittens long to climb right up on the table and sniff around the pie. Then the little black kitten pounced right into the middle of the pie and squirted the red juice of it into the white kitten's eye. The little calico kitten just stood on the other side of the pie and waited, with her



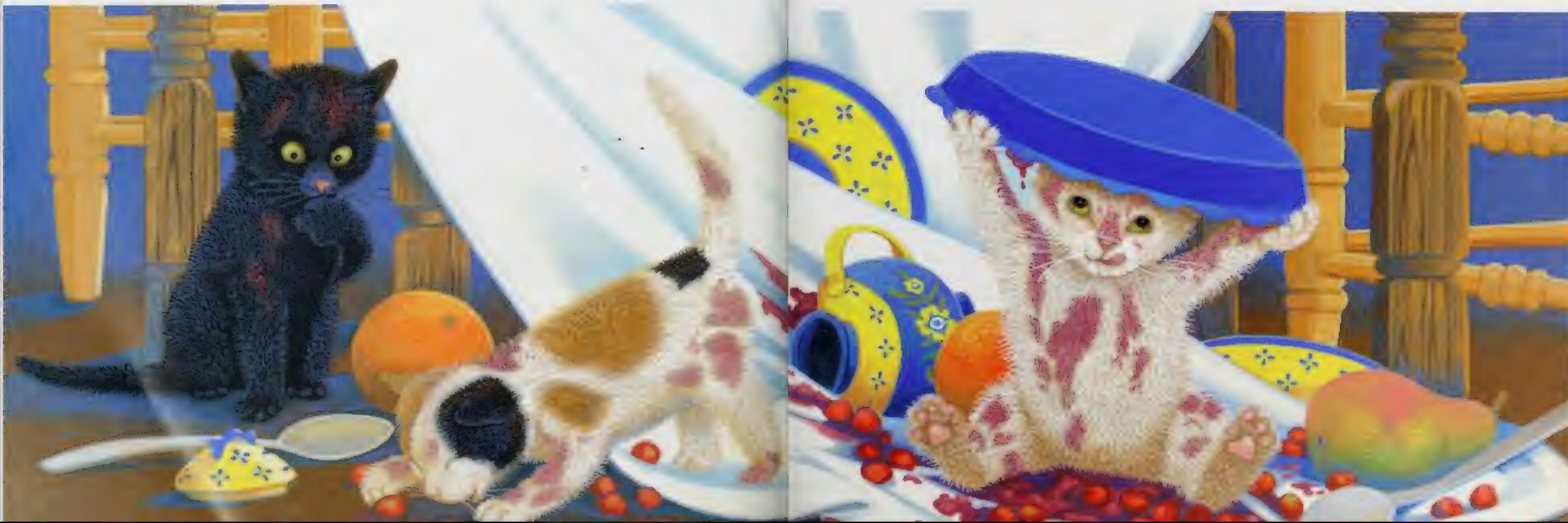


eyes shining. And when the little black kitten crawled out of the pie and onto the table, they grabbed him. They grabbed the black kitten and gave him a good cat-scrubbing with their tongues.

Then the little black kitten went pouncing too near the edge of the tablecloth and fell. Down, down he went, pulling the whole tablecloth with him. Plates and pans came crashing down. The little white kitten slid down the tablecloth like a shoot-the-chute.

And the pie landed right on top of him. The kittens liked the noise of the crash. It was such a big, exciting noise. Then they licked themselves clean once more and went off to explore the rest of the house.

In the dining room, they saw a feather blowing about in the air. The black kitten began a dance with it. He jumped into the air and smacked the feather with his paw. The calico kitten danced, too. But it was the white kitten that discovered the hot air coming up through the grate in the floor. He put







his paw in it. But the air blew right past him. He couldn't see what it was, but he knew that it was warm and soft and wonderful. He waved his paw in it back and forth, back and forth.

Then they discovered the piano. *Ping pang! Ping pang!*—kittens on the keys. The black kitten danced on the high notes, and the white kitten danced on the low notes.

At that, in came the two big feet. And the two big feet chased the three baby kittens all over the house.

Finally, the kittens ran upstairs and hid in the little girl's room. They hid in her closet, and each little kitten climbed into a shoe and went to sleep.

The little black kitten climbed into a soft red slipper and went to sleep.



The other two kittens climbed into a pair of sneakers and went to sleep.

There they were when the little girl found them. They were all curled up in her shoes—three sleepy baby soft angel kittens. And the little girl loved them and kept them forever. And the kittens thought the little girl was wonderful.

Even the cook, who owned the big feet, grew to love the three baby kittens.





# The Ugly Duckling



ONCE UPON A TIME there were two ducks. They had their nest on the edge of a pond in a far corner of the world.

In the nest were five round, smooth eggs.

When the mother duck wasn't sitting on the nest, the father duck was sitting on the nest. All the time they were waiting for some little ducklings to come out of the eggs.

They waited for a long time. The father duck walked up and down. He walked up and down so much that he wore a deep path in the earth where he walked.

And then one day there came a *pick-pick-pick* from inside the eggs. And, one by one, out tumbled four tiny yellow ducklings. When they came tumbling over the edge of the nest, the father duck looked at them with pride and joy.





Then there came a *pick-pick-pick* from inside the fifth egg. Out tumbled the fifth duckling!

There he stood on one foot. He did not look like the others. His feathers were white instead of yellow. His neck was longer. His eyes were big and staring.



When the other ducklings saw him, they ran and hid under their mother's wing. The mother duck stood there and looked. Never had she hatched a duck like this before.

The father duck came running over with a quack-quack-quack.

"Where did this thing come from?" he asked.

"You must have laid that egg," said the mother duck.

"I don't lay eggs!" said the father duck. "Quack! Quack! Quack! Where did this little thing come from?"

The little thing stood there with a piece of eggshell on his head like a hat. He looked around him for the first time. He was so very happy to be born. He looked at the tall green grasses and the pink water lilies of the brand-new world he was living in. He did not know he was an ugly duckling.

Then the mother duck took her little ducklings for their first walk. She shooed the yellow ducklings on ahead of her. The ugly duckling came waddling along behind. But when he tried to come close to the mother duck, she shooed him away.





“You’re no child of mine,” she seemed to say. Still, the ugly duckling tagged along.

When the ducklings went for their first swim, the ugly duckling paddled his legs under him right along with the others.

“Well!” said the mother duck. “At least he’s a swimming bird. But he certainly is a funny duck. Come, little ducklings, climb onto my back.”

The little ducklings climbed onto her back with a quack-quack-quack.

The ugly duckling swam very fast and climbed on, too. Then he made his first noise.

“Honk! Honk!” he said.

What a strange noise for a duckling!

The mother duck and the little ducklings ducked their heads. Who ever heard of a honking duck! They pushed the ugly duckling off the mother duck’s back and into the water. A duck who honked did not belong to them.

Then the mother duck and her ducklings swam off and left the little ugly duckling diving around by himself. He was very lonesome.

He only looked back once at the yellow-feathered backs of the other ducklings as they swam after their mother. Then he went away all by himself.

The poor little duckling swam and swam until he was very tired. Then he climbed up onto the dry land.



Standing there, he looked down into the dark blue water. There in the water was his reflection, all twisted by the ripples of the stream. He did not look like the other ducklings. His eyes were too big, and his neck was too long. His feathers were white instead of yellow.

And then he knew he was an ugly duckling. Big tears came out of his eyes and fell on the ground.

Poor little duckling! Another big tear squeezed out of one eye.

He was not wanted. He was an ugly duckling, and nobody loved him. So he wandered off all alone through the marshes—one little duck in the wide, wide world.



As he walked along, he did not see that the rushes grew green by the bank, and red-winged blackbirds were singing in the sunlight.

Suddenly he heard chirping. Looking up, he saw four friendly little marsh birds chirping to him from a nest in a fallen tree.

The ugly duckling gave a little honk and climbed right up into the nest with them. The baby birds chirped lovingly around him. The nest was warm and the little birds were soft beside him.

All at once the little birds opened up their bills, and along came flying the old marsh bird who was their mother. She had a big worm which she threw to them for their supper.

But when the ugly duckling caught it, the mother bird squawked with rage and pulled the worm away.

She chased the duckling from her nest, pecked him on the head, and beat him with her wings.

The little duckling ran and ran until he jumped into the water. Then he swam away as fast as he could. He swam so fast that he bumped right smack into a wooden duck and started it rocking.



When the ugly duckling saw the big wooden duck, he rubbed his little head against the duck's wooden breast. He didn't know that it was just a wooden duck painted in wild-bird colors. He didn't know that the wooden duck was put there by hunters to lure real wild ducks! He simply thought, Here is a friend.

The wooden duck did not swim away from him. Instead it let the ugly duckling climb up onto the end of its tail and bounce up and down there.

He was so happy that he gave a big bounce in the air that landed him in water. This tipped the wooden duck so far forward that when it rocked back again, it smacked the little duckling on the head.

The ugly duckling thought his new friend had knocked into him on purpose, so he swam off down the stream, the



saddest little duck in the world.

He hid in the reeds that grew along the riverbank and honked as though his little heart would break. His tears fell into the water and made little circles there. He stopped to watch one tear hit the water. Then he put his head down on the ground and cried and cried.

Just then a great white mother swan and her four little swans came floating down the river.

They stopped and listened when they heard the little duck honking on the shore. And when the little swans saw the ugly duckling with his head down on the ground, they came swimming over to him.

"Honk! Honk! Honk!" the swans called to him.

When he heard the sound, the





ugly duckling looked around and saw the four baby swans. They were as white as he was, and they all had long necks like his own. They were honking to him in a friendly way. He was so happy he dove right into his own reflection in the water and broke it. When he came up, the little swans were still there.

The young swans played with him and swam in circles around him.

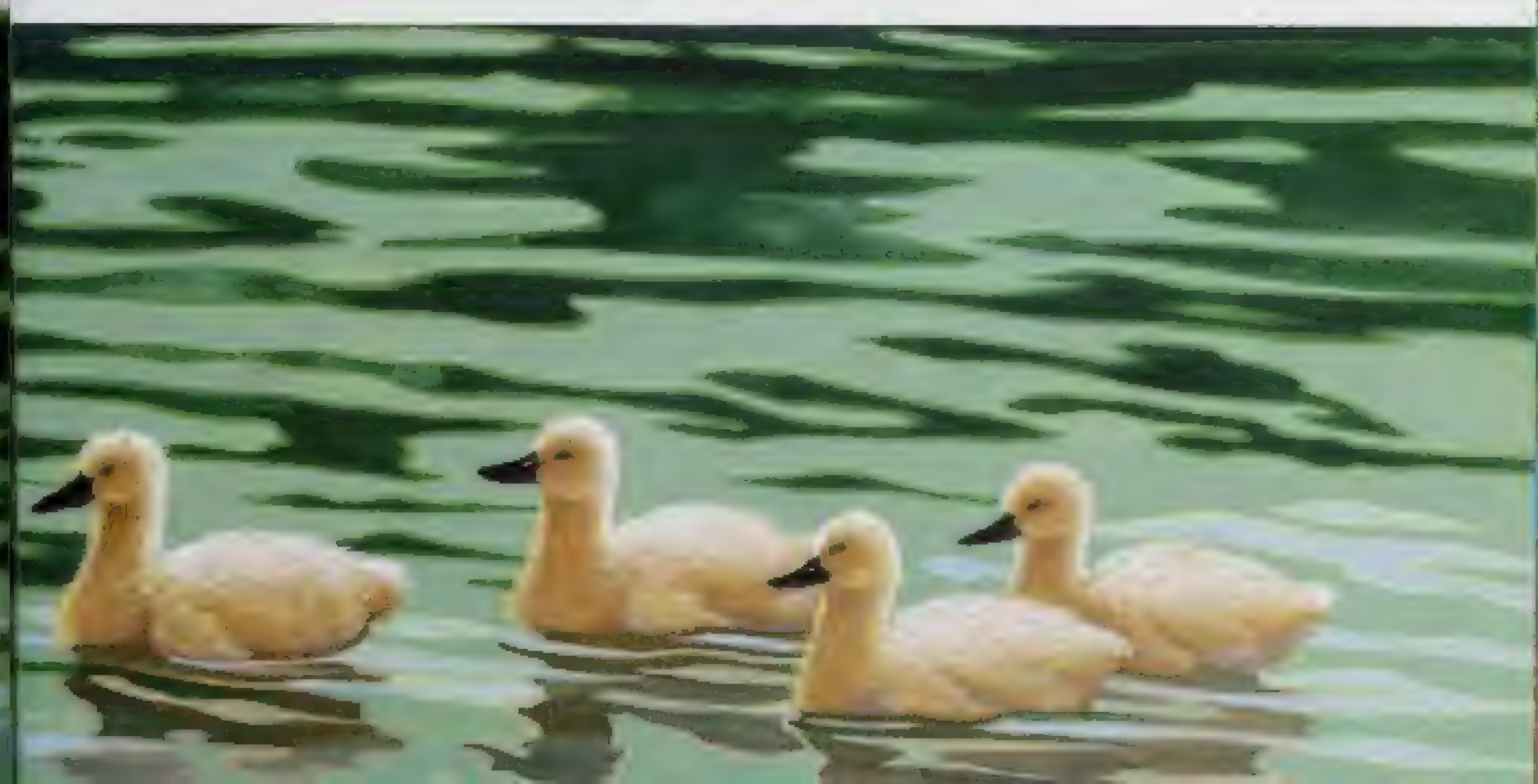
Then the great white mother swan honked to the little swans. The ugly duckling looked up and saw her. Never had he seen such a beautiful white curving bird. The baby swans all went swimming back to the great white swan.



The little duckling watched them go. He wished he might grow up to be beautiful like these swans. Then he remembered he was an ugly duckling. His little head dropped, and he started to swim off by himself, all alone on the wide waters of the stream.

But the swans would not let him go. They knew that the ugly duckling was really a baby swan, just like them. So the white swans swam around the little lost swan and stroked his neck with their beaks. The mother let him come near to the soft swan's down on her breast.

Then she put her wing over her lost baby swan and swam with him down the stream.





# The Grasshopper and the Ants



*h, the world owes me a living,  
Tra la la, lalala la."*

The grasshopper was singing his song as he jumped through his fields.

He almost jumped on top of some ants who were pulling grains of corn up an anthill.

Said the grasshopper to the ants: "Why are you working all through the day? A summer day is a time to play!"

"We can't," said the ants. "Winter will soon be here."

The busy little ants did not have time to feel the warm summer sun or to run and jump just for fun. From the beginning of day till the end, they were busy hauling the corn away. Winter was coming. They had no time to play.





All summer the grasshopper sang and danced his grasshopper dances in the grasses. When he was hungry, he reached out and ate.

And the grasshopper sang:

*"The good book says: 'The world provides.*

*There's food on every tree.'*

*Why should anyone have to work? Not me!*

*Oh, the world owes me a living, tra la la, lalala la."*



With that, he took a big swig of honey from a blue harebell that grew above his head. Then he spit a big wet spit of grasshopper tobacco juice. It nearly landed on a little ant who was dragging a load of cherries to store in the ant house for the winter.



Said the grasshopper to the ant:

*"The other ants can work all day.*

*Why not try the grasshopper's way?*

*Come on, let's sing and dance and play!*

*Oh, the world owes me a living, tra la la, lalala la."*

The little ant was so charmed by the music that he dropped his heavy load and started to dance.



Then came the queen, the Queen of All the Ants.

And the Queen of All the Ants frowned on the dancing ant so that he picked up his cherries and went back to the other busy ants. The Queen of All the Ants spoke sober words to the grasshopper: "You'll change your tune when winter comes and the ground is white with snow."

But the grasshopper only made a courtly bow.



"Winter is a long way off," he said. "Do you dance? Let's go."

*Oh, the world owes me a living, tra la la, lalala la.*

*The other ants can work all day.*

*Why not try the grasshopper's way?*

*Come on, let's sing and dance and play!*

But even as he sang and played on his fiddle, the Queen of All the Ants hurried away. She, like other ants, had no time to play.

All through the long, lazy summer months the grasshopper went on singing:

*Oh, the world owes me a living,  
tra la la, lalala la.*

There was no tomorrow.  
There was only today, and the  
sleet and snow seemed far away.

But the little ants worked



harder than ever. As long as the sun was in the sky, they went back and forth carrying the foods from the fields into their ant house.

Then the winter wind began to blow. It blew the leaves off all the trees. The ants ran into their ant house and closed the door, and you didn't see them in the fields anymore. Every day the winds would blow.

And then one day—SNOW.

The grasshopper was freezing. He couldn't find any leaves to eat. All he had was his fiddle and his bow. And he wandered along, lost in the snow. He had nothing to eat and nowhere to go. Then far off he saw one leaf still clinging to a tree.

"Food! Food!" cried the hungry grasshopper, and he leaned against the wind and pushed on toward the tree.

But just as he got there, the wind blew the last dry leaf





away. The grasshopper dropped his fiddle and watched the leaf go. It fluttered away through the white snowflakes. It drifted slowly away. It was gone.

And then he came to the house of the busy ants. He could hear them inside having a dance. They had worked hard all summer, and now they could enjoy the winter.

The grasshopper was too cold to go on. The wind blew him over, and he lay where he fell. His long green jumping and dancing legs were nearly frozen. Then, very slowly, he pulled himself to the house of the ants and knocked.



When the ants came to the door, they found him there, half frozen. And ten of the kind and busy ants came out and carried the poor grasshopper into their house. They gave him hot corn soup. And they hurried about, making him warm.

Then the Queen of All the Ants came to him. And the grasshopper was afraid, and he begged of her: "Oh, Madam Queen, wisest of ants, please, please, give me another chance."

The Queen of All the Ants looked at the poor, thin frozen grasshopper as he lay shivering there. Then she spoke these words:

"With ants, just those that work may stay. So take your fiddle—and PLAY!"





The grasshopper was so happy that his foot began beating out the time in the old way, and he took up his fiddle and sang:

*"I owe the world a living, tra la la, lalala la.  
I've been a fool the whole year long.  
Now I'm singing a different song.  
You were right, I was wrong. Tra la la, lalala la."*

Then all of the ants began to dance, even the Queen of All the Ants.

And the grasshopper sang:

*"Now I'm singing a different song.  
I owe the world a living, tra la la, lalala la."*



## For a Rainy Day





## The Hollow Tree

Oh, happy, happy, hollow tree  
Where the bear and the bug and the grub  
and the bee  
Sleep all winter drowsily  
In their warm dark honeycombed tree  
Drowsily sleep in their dark and hollow tree.



## Raindrops on the Willow Tree

The diamonds on the tree twigs  
Are all the diamonds that I've got  
So bright  
So unexpected  
So soon gone  
And yet  
Alive as rain  
Alive as time  
Shining like diamonds  
Raindrops  
They shine and glow  
Brighter than snow  
They shine  
And they are mine.





## Smoky Nights

Smoky nights  
And the half-lit lights  
Of streetlights  
In the smoky night  
Of October evening  
Of lighted doors  
That open  
Into home.



## Quiet Rain

O the beautiful rain is wet is wet  
And yet I cannot forget forget  
The sound of the train in the distant rain  
And the sound of the rain dripping down  
So light, so light, so white, so light  
Quieter quieter grows the night  
The rain has turned to snow.





# The Old Mill



AS THE SUN LEFT THE SKY, the clouds in the west were gold and gray. The peace of evening came down over the land.

The spider hurried to weave the last strands of his web before dark. The cows went slowly home across the ridge of the hill. And the ducks waddled into the barn.

The windmill stood with its giant ragged arms against the evening sky. Quietness came all around.

The blue barn swallow with the red throat swooped into the old mill. He carried a worm in his beak for his little mate, who was keeping warm their three blue eggs. They were at home in the old mill. Their nest was made in a cog hole of the millstone, for the old mill had not been used for many years except as a home for birds and other animals. As darkness came on, the old fat owl who slept







through the day opened his round yellow eyes. He cocked his head and stamped from one foot to the other.

Then he called in a sleepy way,  
"Whoo! Whoo! Whoo!"

Farther up, bright eyes came out like electric lights in the darkness under the roof. These were the eyes of the bats.

The bats lived in the old mill, too, hanging upside down as they slept through the day.

One bat after another unfolded its wings and stretched them wide. They fluttered forth from the old mill like ragged scattered leaves.

Outside, the moon came up in a soft golden mist. The crickets began to chirp in the summer night.

On the pond, as the last of the water lilies closed, two big eyes peered from under a lily pad.



Out jumped a big green bullfrog.  
He jumped on a lily pad and croaked:

"Come! Come! Come! Come!"

And another frog croaked:

"Come where! Come where!

Come! Come! Come where!

Come! Come!"

Another frog answered:

"Come here! Come where! Come! Come!"

A great chorus of frogs was croaking on the lily pads of the pond. Lightning bugs made hundreds of golden sparks in the darkness.







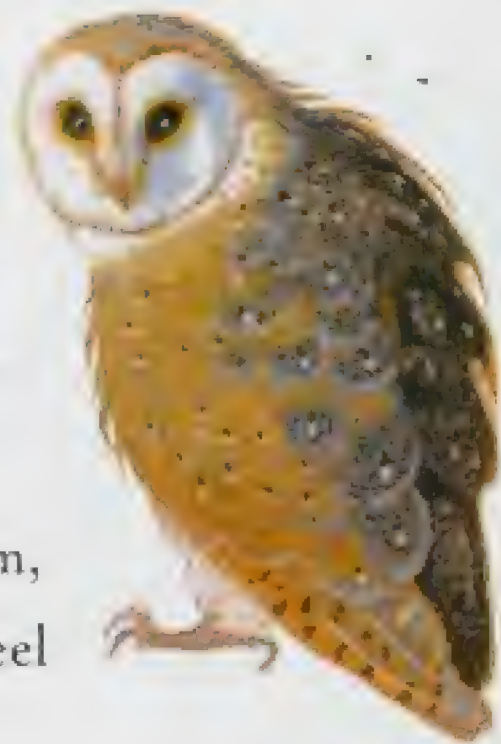
Then the wind began to blow. It swept through the trees. Great black clouds sailed over the moon. The wind blew harder. Leaves fell down from the trees into the pond, and the frogs dived under the water. *Plop!*

Then the storm came on in all of its crashing fury.

The old fat owl, sitting on a rafter above the mill's waterwheel, was nearly thrown from his perch. Water dripped on the fat owl's head and made him angry. He seemed to grow bigger and bigger as he ruffled up his feathers in anger.

Outside, the wind blew the trees low and blew down the fence posts. The slender reeds in the swamp broke off at their lower joints.

Then, in the fury of the storm, the rope that held the mill wheel



broke! The arms of the old mill were free once more. They turned round and round against the sky, and the big wheel inside the mill began to turn.

The mother bird on her nest saw the great wheel coming down above her. She fluttered away from the nest in fright. But then she flew back and covered her wings. She did not know that the cog for that hole in the millstone was broken. And so the big wheel came rolling over her nest and left her unhurt.



Around and around, the great jagged arms of the windmill turned against the sky. Black clouds went racing over the moon. Lightning flashed in jagged cracks.



And inside the mill the great wheel turned around and around over the little mother barn swallow.

The wind shrieked outside, but the little swallow never left her nest.



She covered it and kept the eggs warm.

Lightning flashed close by the fat old owl, so he moved sideways on his perch. Then he blinked and turned his head.

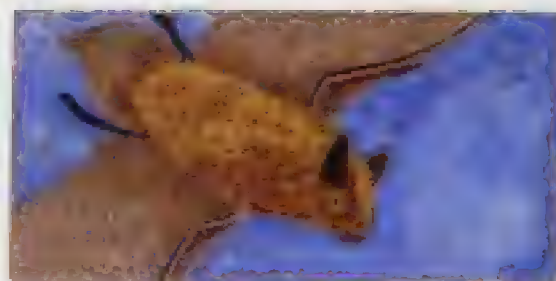
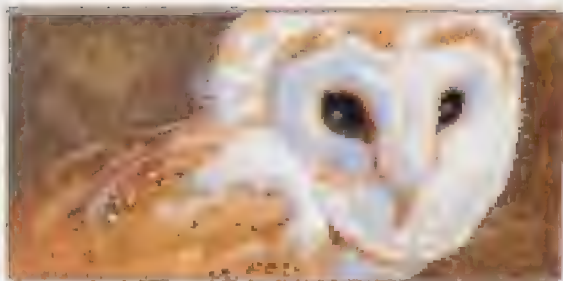
The lightning came again with a deafening crash. It struck the old mill and broke off one of the arms of the windmill. The old mill shook, and its turning wheel went more slowly.

The wind died down, and there was only the sound of the rain. And the sound of the rain grew softer and softer until it went away. Then the sky outside grew yellow and light in the east. The moon was gone. And the old mill stood as before. Only now one ragged arm was broken and hanging down against the morning sky.

Inside the mill the old fat owl blinked and closed his eyes. And the bats came flying home. In the nest under the mill wheel three little birds were opening yellow bills. And the mother and father swallow came flying in. They had worms







for their baby birds, who had been born during the storm. The blue feathers of the baby barn swallows were shining in the morning sun.

All was peaceful, as though the storm had never been. The cows went slowly over the hill. The ducks came out of the barn and swam back to the green reeds by the edge of the pond.

All was quiet as before. The storm had come and gone. And the sunlight was caught in the spider's web.



# Nonsense





## Nonsense Song

A long way from Nowhere  
In the Land of Nothing  
Two pussycats sat in a tree.  
How did they get there?  
And where did they come from?  
On that they could never agree.





## Whoopsie Daisy!

Whoopsie Daisy  
Picked a daisy  
On a summer's day.  
Whoopsie Daisy  
Picked a daisy  
Then she ran away!



## Snowballs and Sunshine

Summer summer in the sun  
Flowers grow and bunnies run  
And it's always the same little boy  
And it's always the same little girl





Snowballs snowballs in the snow  
Snowflakes fall  
and cold winds blow



Pussywillows in the spring  
Violets bloom and robins sing



The winds blow hard  
across the hill  
And slap the yellow daffodil



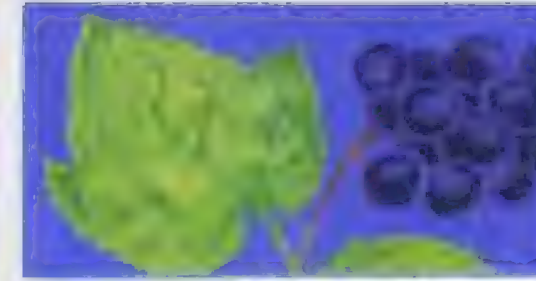
Grasshoppers, ladybugs, and bees  
Hop about bare toes and knees





The fog comes on without  
a sound

Gray—silent—all around  
Rain rain on the windowpane  
Splashes once then splashes again  
Walk across the icy snow  
No footsteps wherever you go



Orange pumpkins yellow corn  
Purple grapes and frosty morn



The smoke is drifting all around  
From raked leaves on the ground  
Jagged lightning splits the sky  
Thunder rumbles,  
wild winds cry



Starlight starlight frosty bright  
In the spaces of the night



# Colors

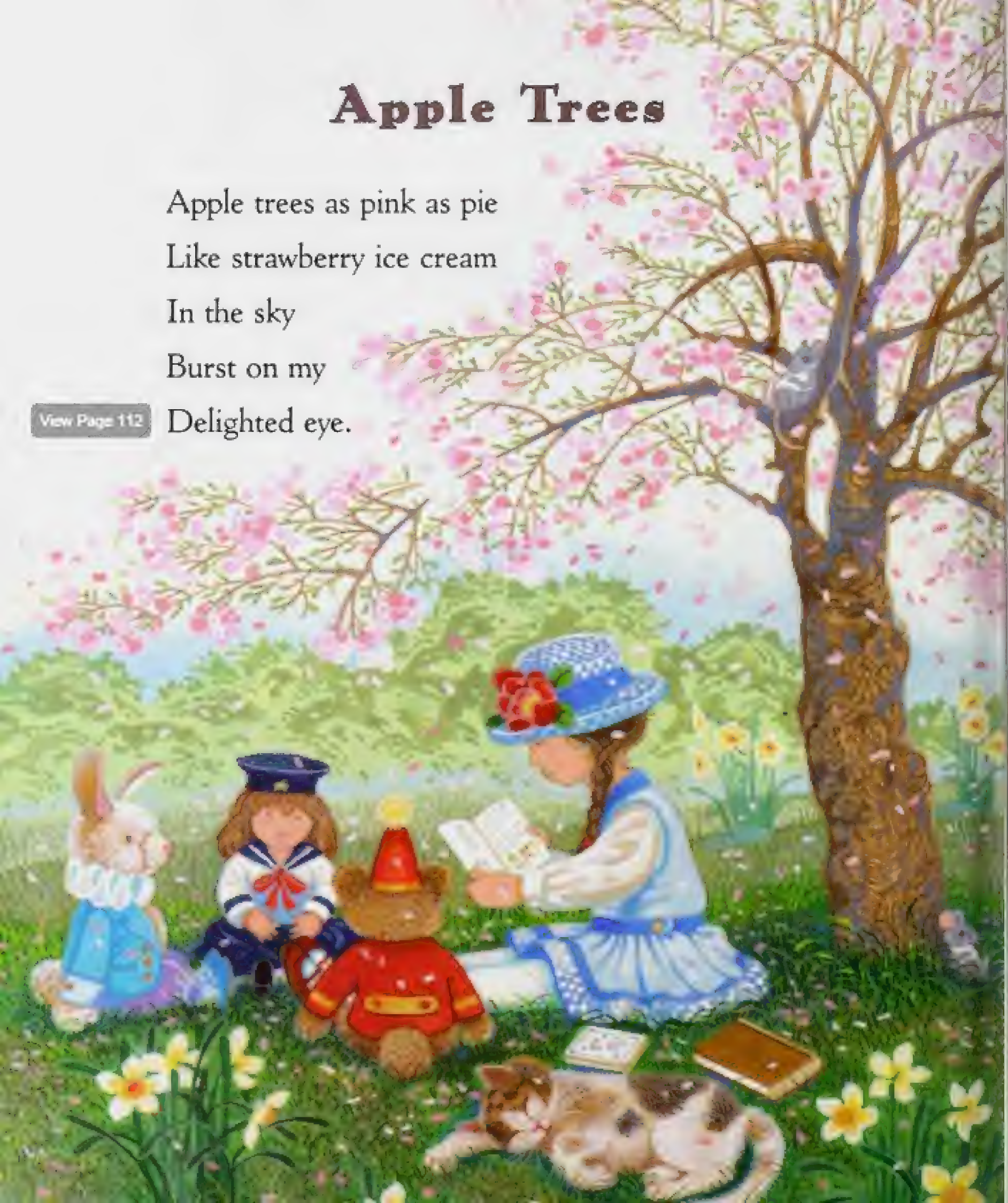




## Apple Trees

Apple trees as pink as pie  
Like strawberry ice cream  
In the sky  
Burst on my  
Delighted eye.

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## Golden Air

When the wind blows  
The leaves fall free  
Yellow leaves falling  
In golden air  
  
And everywhere  
Upon the ground  
Leaves of gold  
Are scattered round.





# All the Bright Colors

Happy happy colors  
Colors of carrots and peas

Red the color of  
red balloons

Green of grasses  
and trees

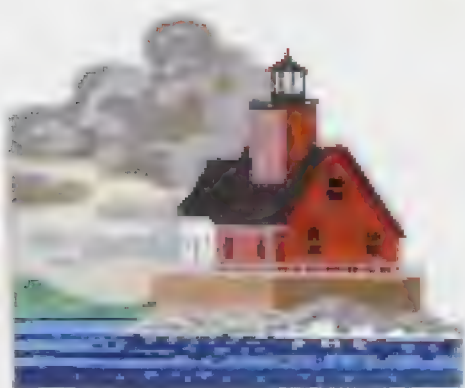
Gray the color  
of winter skies

Purple of tropical seas

Blue the color of  
Concord grapes

Yellow the  
stripes of bees

Happy happy colors  
Color of autumn leaves.



## Nature





# One Night

The moon came out of the sea one night

Into a dark blue sky.

It made an enormous yellow light

Across the dark night sky.



The stars came out of the sea one night

And went up across the sky.

They came with a clear and still light

High in the dark blue sky.

They seemed to be not far away

And not so very high.





## The Life of a Leaf

In the spring  
The leaf began as a bud  
Then fell to the ground with a thud  
In the fall of the year.  
The summer is brief  
And so is the life of a leaf.



## Dream of a Weed

Dream of a weed growing from a seed  
Quietly, quietly from a seed  
In a garden  
A slim green weed  
Quietly, quietly from a seed.





# Clouds

A cloud is a cloud  
A great big soft white wonderful thing  
In an even bigger sky  
And sometimes not so high  
But near enough to fly  
Up there and lie  
In the softness of that  
Cloud in the sky  
And sink till you no longer think  
But only drift  
And in that drift through endless blue  
A soft white cloud is lifting you  
Through the softer air.



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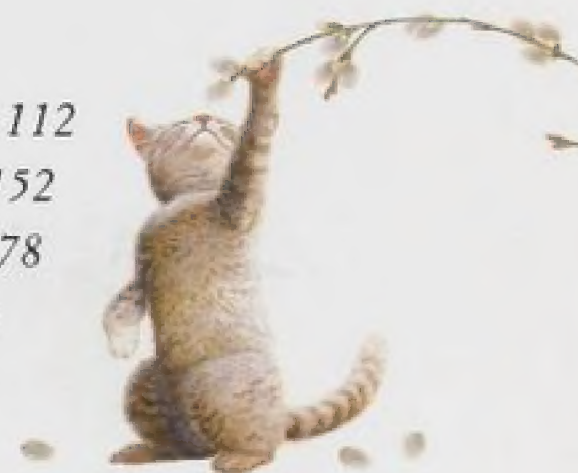
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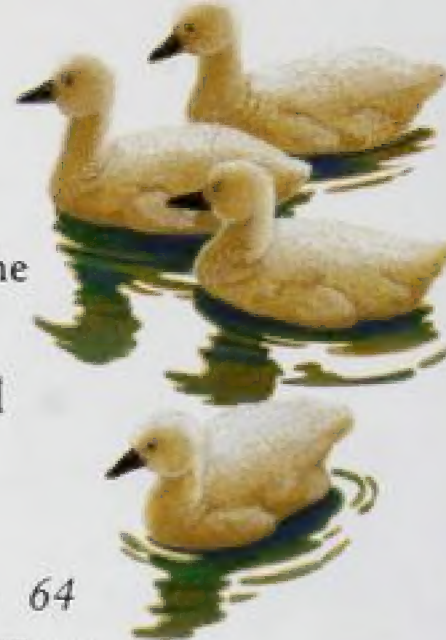
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is the beloved author of such classics as *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*. She is also one of the best-selling children's book writers of all time. Ms. Brown died in 1952.

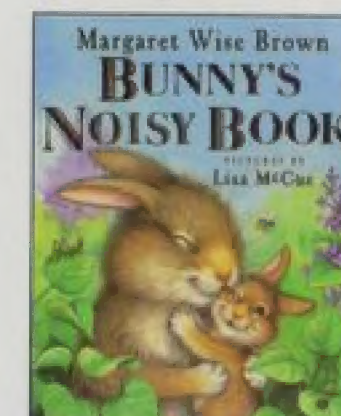
### **Loretta Krupinski**

is the illustrator of many celebrated books for children, including *Tiny Green Thumbs* by C.Z. Guest as well as her own adaptation of a favorite classic, *A Visit from St. Nicholas*, and an original historical picture book, *Best Friends*.

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*Also by Margaret Wise Brown:*



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*Drowsy little bumblebee  
Come and rest your wings on me  
No more humming in the sun  
Stars come out and day is done.*



ISBN 078680628-1

